

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /067 W
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O 141140Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1601
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4521

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: STATE 204787 (NOTAL)

1. INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE AT SUBJECT
CONFERENCE ARRIVED TO LATE FOR AMBASSADOR'S 12 AUGUST MEETING
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. ACCORDINGLY, DCM MADE DEMARCHE 14 AUG.
AT SCHEDULED MEETING WITH FAISAL AL-RIFAI, DIRECTOR, UNITED
NATIONS AFFIARS, MFA.

2. DCM EXPRESSED USG REGRET THAT 3 RECENT THIRD WORLD MEETINGS
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(DAKAR, HAVANA AND BELGRADE) HAD REAFFIRMED UNGA RESOLUTION
3379 WHICH HAD CAUSED USG TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM WORK
OF THE UN DECADE AGAINST RACISM. DCM EXPRESSLY AVOIDED DISCUSSION
OF MERITS OF RESOLUTION 3379 AND EMPHASIZED STRONGLY FACT THAT
RESOLUTION WAS DISTASTEFUL TO A GREAT MANY PEOPLE ESPECIALLY A
AMONG US PUBLIC AND CONGRESS.

3. REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR'S RECENT TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IN WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD EMPHASIZED CONTINUING AND FIRM DETERMINATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE, AS EVIDENCED BY UPCOMING CAMP DAVID MEETING, DCM SAID IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESS CAME TO UNDERSTAND THAT A REAFFIRMATION OF ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION, WAS RESULT OF GENERAL ARAB SPONSORSHIP OR SUPPORT. THIS PUBLIC IMPRESSION COULD POISON THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING CAMP DAVID.

4. DCM STATED THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE SUBSTANTIAL FORCES FOR MODERATION, NOT ONLY AMONG AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS AT GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT AMONG ARABS AS WELL, WHO DO NOT SUPPORT EMPHASIS ON RESOLUTION 3379 AT THIS TIME. HE SAID IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THOSE WHO STRONGLY FAVOR REAFFIRMATION OF THE RESOLUTION ARE THOSE WHO ONLY HAVE AN INTEREST IN POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE AND UNDERMINING PROSPECTS FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES, NOT ONLY IN THE ARAB WORLD BUT ELSEWHERE. DCM ASKED RIFAI TO ARRANGE FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO GOK DELEGATE IN GENEVA TO SEEK OUT MODERATES AMONG THE ARABS AND OTHERS AND TO USE GOK INFLUENCE TO EMPHASIZE THE HARM WHICH COULD FLOW FROM REAFFIRMATION OF THE RESOLUTION. DCM LEFT PIECE OF PAPER COVERING FOREGOING POINTS.

5. RIFAI WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY PREDICTION CONCERNING OUTCOME OF GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE POINT UNDER DISCUSSION, BUT
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ACKNOWLEDGED THE DISADVANTAGES OF EMPHASIZING SUCH A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. HE UNDERTOOK TO PASS POINTS MADE BY DCM TO HIS SUPERIORS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS A MATTER FOR THEIR URGENT ATTENTION.
MAESTRONE

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